

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

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**AGENDA ITEM #8**

January 15, 1999

To: Delta Protection Commission
From: Lori Clamurro, Delta Protection Commission Staff
Re: Category III Ecosystem Restoration Projects Tracking Memo

Since 1995, restoration projects aimed at improving the quality of the Delta environment have been funded. The purpose has been specifically to implement "non-flow" related actions, also called Category III projects, to restore and enhance habitat and species populations. The term Category III comes from the State Water Resources Control Board's adopted Water Quality Control Plan for the Bay-Delta, and Category III measures are included as part of the Bay-Delta Accord of 1994. As part of this agreement, funding for Category III projects has been provided by water users such as California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA), by the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), and by Proposition 204 (State share), and federal appropriations.

The last proposal solicitation occurred in May 1998. The next proposal solicitation is scheduled for February 1999, and will focus on the types of projects identified by CALFED, the Integration Panel, and the Strategic Plan Core Team as priorities for FY 99. Priorities include an East Delta Habitat Corridor (restoring habitat along the South Fork of the Mokelumne River and on Georgiana Slough, and restoration of in-channel islands), a North Delta Habitat Corridor (restoration on Little Holand Tract, Prospect Island, Liberty Island, and the lower Yolo Bypass), a study to determine the need to screen small Delta diversions, and various water quality actions.

Commission staff has been preparing memos describing and updating the status of the various Category III projects funded to date in the Delta area. Per the request of the Commission at the December 18, 1998 meeting, staff has consolidated the information contained in the previous memos into a more condensed format, very similar to the monthly pending projects memo. The project memos will be updated regularly.

CUWA - Solicitation 1 (1995) -- no projects relevant to Delta

CUWA - Solicitation 2 (September 1996)

<u>Title</u>	<u>Applicant(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Status</u>
Sherman Island Levee Habitat Demonstration Project	DWR RD 341	Construct 2.5-acre in-channel island using dredged material stored on Sherman Island.	\$960,000	Design complete; applicants looking for additional funding. Possible rebid in Spring 1999.
Predicting the Evolution of Ecological Functions from Restoration of Diked Wetlands in the Delta	University of Washington	Two-year study will compare both naturally- and artificially-breached diked wetland sites to evaluate the rate, pattern, and long-term success of breached-dike restoration (as compared to natural marsh sites).	\$475,000	Project is 30% complete.
Yolo Bypass Study	DWR	Two-to-three year study will provide data and technical recommendations on Bypass modifications, due to strong evidence of mortality to salmon and other species from stranding.	\$256,000	Project is underway. First year data collected in Spring 1998. Contract executed Nov-98.
Decker Island Tidal Wetland Enhancement Pilot Project	Port of Sacramento	Establish 35-40 acres of tidal wetland on Decker Island, and conduct vegetation management activities to improve habitat on the remainder of the 70-acre site.	\$399,000	Funding terminated.
Inventory of Rearing Habitat for Juvenile Salmon in the North Delta and Lower Sacramento and Cosumnes Rivers	Amy Harris	Conduct a survey of rearing habitat for juvenile salmon in the north Delta. Attempt to distinguish races of juvenile salmon.	\$24,500	Project is 75% complete.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Applicant(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Status</u>
Prospect Island Habitat Restoration Project	Corps of Engineers DWR	Purchase Prospect Island and restore 1,300 acres of shallow water, tidal wetlands, and aquatic habitat.	\$9,150,000	\$2 million awarded for levee repairs, which began Nov-98. Environmental documentation is 95% complete; expected Mar-99.
Prospect Island Monitoring Plan	DWR	Develop a monitoring plan for post-project monitoring of the Prospect Island project.	\$35,000	Project complete.
Introduction of Non-Indigenous Aquatic Species Research Program	San Francisco Estuary Institute	Develop regional monitoring program to provide early warning for eradication or mitigation. Assess priority for control of nonindigenous marsh plants. Public outreach on ballast water invasions. Examine post-invasion control mechanisms.	\$197,000	Project 90% complete.
Cosumnes River Preserve Acquisition	TNC	Acquire 4,356-acre Valensin Ranch property.	\$12,000,000	Project complete. (Escrow closed Dec-96.)

CALFED - Solicitation 1 (July 1997)

<u>Title</u>	<u>Applicant(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Status</u>
Hastings Tract Fish Screen Feasibility Study	Hastings Island Land Company	Feasibility report on the installation of fish screens on gravity intake pipes and the relocation of the pipes from Cache Slough to Lindsey Slough	\$27,000	Contract being prepared.
Monitoring of Delta Contaminants	DeltaKeeper	One-year pilot study to establish baseline toxicity data at 12-14 sites throughout the Delta and east-side tributaries.	\$100,000	Contract signed Sep-98.
Effects of Wetlands Restoration on Methyl Mercury Production	U.C. Davis	Yield baseline data quantifying the levels of methyl mercury production from diked and reflooded wetlands.	\$546,171	Contract signed Sep-98.

Title	Applicant(s)	Description	Funding	Status
Sedimentation Movement and Availability in the Delta	USGS	Monitor sediment transport at several sites to describe the movement of the sediment needed for habitat restoration.	\$1,046,200	Contract for \$587,000 signed Mar-98; contract for \$460,000 signed May-98.
Contaminant Effects on Delta Smelt	U.C. Davis	Two-year study will evaluate contaminant effects on smelt by quantifying the overall health, condition, and growth rate of smelt collected from various sites.	\$437,236	Sent to contractor for signature Sep-98.
Jepson Prairie Restoration	Solano County Farmlands and Open Space Fdn.	Three-year program will restore shaded riverine aquatic habitat along portions of Barker Slough and Calhoun Cut, restore perennial grasslands, and design a habitat corridor connecting Jepson Prairie Preserve to Prospect Island.	\$244,801	Contract awaiting review by Solano County Farmlands Board.
Demonstration Project for Protection and Enhancement of In-Channel Islands	Association of Bay Area Governments	First phase (design) funded. Design several small restoration areas (Little Tinsley Island and Webb Tract Islands).	\$270,270	Contract signed Jul-98. Contractor selected.
Liberty Island Acquisition	USFWS	Acquire 4,750-acre Liberty Island.	\$8,577,000	Contract signed Mar-98.
Franks Tract Recreation Area Wetlands Habitat Restoration	Moffat & Nichol Engineers DPR DWR	Construct four demonstration islands along Piper Slough to restore 45 acres of tidal perennial aquatic habitat, shaded riverine aquatic habitat, and mid-channel islands and shoal habitat.	\$231,500	Contract signed Dec-98.
Tyler Island Levee Protection and Habitat Restoration Pilot Project	Habitat Assessment & Restoration Team, Inc.	Create/enhance shaded riverine aquatic and tidal perennial aquatic habitat along 2,000 feet of Georgiana Slough and along 3,000 feet of the North Fork of the Mokelumne River.	\$885,202	Contract signed Jul-98. Georgiana Slough work completed.
Cosumnes River Preserve Acquisition	TNC Wildlife Conservation Board	Acquire fee or easement interests from willing sellers on three properties (totaling 2,195 acres) contiguous to the Preserve.	\$7,185,000	Scope under review. McCormack-Williamson Tract acquisition to be under a separate contract.

<u>Title</u> Mokelumne River Seiback Levee and Habitat Restoration	<u>Applicant(s)</u> RD 2110	<u>Description</u> Construct a 3.4-mile levee set back approximately 400 feet from the existing levee, one mile downstream of its confluence with the Cosumnes River.	<u>Funding</u> \$365,000	<u>Status</u> Project on hold as TNC negotiates to buy McCormack-Williamson Tract.
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CALFED - Solicitation 2 (September 97)

<u>Title</u> Assessing Impacts of Selenium on Restoration of the Bay-Delta Eco-system	<u>Applicant(s)</u> USGS	<u>Description</u> Three-year study evaluating selenium in the Bay-Delta to develop models useful for selenium management.	<u>Funding</u> \$1,588,709	<u>Status</u> Contract signed Aug-98.
Cache Slough Shaded Riverine Aquatic Habitat Enhancement	RD 2060	First phase (design) funded. Design restoration for 2,000 ft. of levee bank where erosion has removed shaded riverine aquatic habitat.	\$85,000	Contract signed Jun-98.
Twitchell Island Restoration	DWR USGS NHI Northwest Hydraulic Consultants, Inc. Philip Williams & Associates Ltd. Steve Deverei, Ph.D.	First phase funded. Design and construct three large restoration pilot projects, totalling 600 acres, on Twitchell Island. Develop technical design recommendations for a restoration program to raise the surface level of subsided Delta islands.	\$3,583,000	Under review at DWR.
Culture of Delta Smelt	U.C. Davis	Establish a functional culture system to provide smelt embryos, larvae, juveniles, and adults for laboratory testing.	\$194,870	Contract signed Sep-98.
Cosumnes Floodplain Acquisition and Restoration	TNC	Acquisition of three properties contiguous to the Cosumnes River Preserve.	\$3,400,000	Contract signed Jul-98.
Sediment Water Quality (Designated Action)	DFG	Develop criteria for the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to permit reuse of material dredged in the Delta.	\$500,000	Project scope and budget under review.

CALFED - Solicitation 3 (May 1998)

<u>Title</u>	<u>Applicant(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Status</u>
Adult Fall-Run Chinook Salmon in the Lower San Joaquin River and South Delta	DFG	Monitor upstream movement of fall-run salmon in the lower San Joaquin River and South Delta. Determine whether the installation of temporary barriers at the head of Old River or low DOC significantly impede upstream migration.	\$285,000	Applicant has been notified.
Cosumnes River Salmonid Barrier Program	Fishery Fdn. of California (FFC)	Install fish passage structures at two summer dams in the lower Cosumnes River. Upgrade fish ladders at Granlees Dam to current DFG hydraulic specifications.	\$188,255	Applicant has been notified.
Hastings Tract Fish Screen, Phase II: Construction	Hastings Island Land Company	Place fish screens on gravity intake pipes, and relocate the pipes from Cache Slough to Lindsey Slough.	\$271,250	Applicant has been notified.
Rhode Island Floodplain Management and Habitat Restoration	DFG	First phase (survey) funded. Survey conditions to determine specific improvement needs. Plan to improve fish and wildlife carrying capacity on the 67-acre island by increasing the width, height, and stability of the island's breached levees.	\$25,000	Applicant has been notified.
Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Acquisitions	USFWS	Acquire fee title interest in two properties, totaling 658 acres, located within the Refuge boundary.	\$1,900,000	Applicant has been notified.
Fern-Headreach Tidal Perennial Aquatic and Shaded River Aquatic Conservation Project	Thomas Luckey	Exercise purchase option on the Fern-Headreach Island Complex, and commit the entire 168-acre complex to shallow water habitat (140 acres) and shaded riverine aquatic habitat (28 acres).	\$425,000	Applicant has been notified.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Applicant(s)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding</u>	<u>Status</u>
Cosumnes River Acquisition, Restoration, Planning, and Demonstration	TNC BLM Wildlife Conservation Board	Acquire fee title interest in a 300-acre property contiguous to the Cosumnes River Preserve.	\$750,000	Applicants have been notified.
Biological Assessment of Green Sturgeon in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Watershed	U.C. Davis DFG	Two-year study to determine baseline information regarding the green sturgeons' biological requirements in the watershed.	\$241,000	Applicants have been notified.
Watershed Restoration Strategy for the Yolo Bypass	Yolo Basin Fdn.	Develop a local implementation strategy for the ERPP's environmental restoration in the Yolo Bypass.	\$244,188	Applicant has been notified.
Lower Putah Creek Watershed Stewardship Program	Solano County Dept. of Environmental Mgt.	Develop a community-based watershed stewardship program for lower Putah Creek.	\$100,500	Applicant has been notified.
Traveling Film Festival	Independent Documentary Group S.F. Public Library S.F. Recreation and Park Dept.	Package and distribute a six-film Traveling Festival utilizing IDG's films about Bay and Delta habitats, wildlife, and restoration; travel throughout the Bay Area.	\$54,000	Applicants have been notified.
Discover the Flyway	Yolo Basin Fdn.	Two-year program will expand the current program to include curriculum and activities for middle school students and high school students, and expand trips and training sessions for the general public.	\$49,000	Applicant has been notified.
Bay-Delta Environmental Restoration Education Program	Water Education Foundation	Provide outreach to increase understanding of Bay-Delta watershed ecology, and relate this to long-term CALFED programs.	\$40,000	Applicant has been notified.
Water Challenge 2010	S.F. Bay Model Visitor Center Corps of Engineers	Traveling exhibit would allow visitors to manage Delta water for ecosystem restoration and other beneficial uses.	\$64,500	Applicants have been notified.

<u>Title</u> Developing a Methodology to Accurately Simulate the Entrainment of Fish	<u>Applicant(s)</u> DFG	<u>Description</u> Purchase or lease a barge, mount a pipe, pump, and flume to hold a sampling net on board the barge, and conduct sampling of one of DWR's agricultural diversion siphons on Sherman Island.	<u>Funding</u> \$200,000	<u>Status</u> Applicant has been notified.
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